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AREA NO KISHI CHAPTER 96

STORY BY: HIROAKI IGANO

ART BY: KAYA TSUKIYAMA

TRANSLATOR: MARIMO
PROOFREADER: SATINEL
EDITORS: YOONA, ANGINRIBUT
QCERS: MARIMO, SATINEL
RAW PROVIDER: MARIMO

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#96 REAL ABILITY

NOTHING WENT WELL FOR YOUIN
INDEED. . IT FEELS LIKE THEY'RE ONLY ONE GOAL BEHIND BECAUSE OF ASUKA-SAN
IF YOUIN WERE TO REALLY LOSE,
It'll work, it'll work!
I know right?
WE'LL FACE THIS SAGAMI GAURA IN THE NEXT MATCH
14

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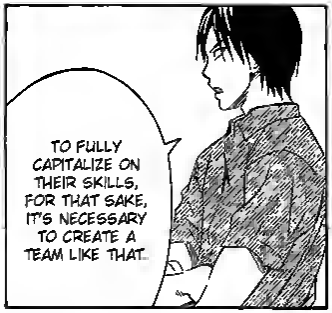
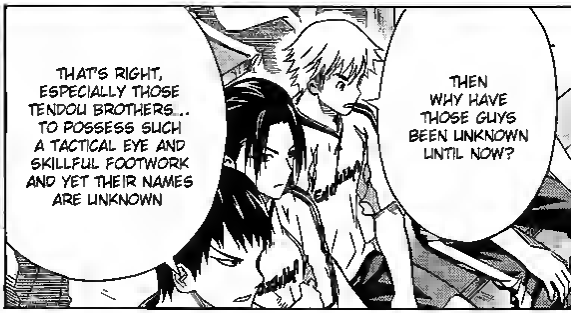
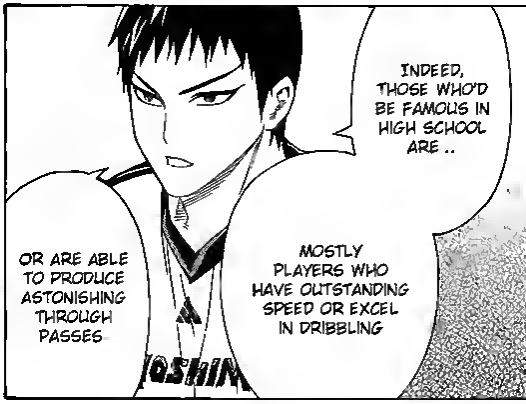
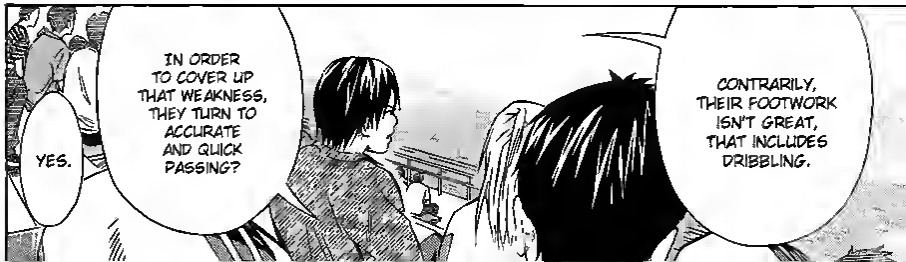
I'M SURPRISED, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE ABLE TO PULL OF TACTICS BY THE DUTCH TEAM IN THEIR PEAK DURING CRUYFF'S TIME
HOWEVER, AT LAST UP TILL THE END OF THE FIRST HALF, THE TOTAL FOOTBALL FUNCTIONED WELL.




THAT'S RIGHT, ESPECIALLY THOSE TENDOU BROTHERS... TO POSSESS SUCH A TACTICAL EYE AND SKILLFUL FOOTWORK AND YET THEIR NAMES ARE UNKNOWN
THEN WHY HAVE THOSE GUYS BEEN UNKNOWN UNTIL NOW?


INDEED, THOSE WHO'D BE FAMOUS IN HIGH SCHOOL ARE ..
MOSTLY PLAYERS WHO HAVE OUTSTANDING SPEED OR EXCEL IN DRIBBLING
OR ARE ABLE TO PRODUCE ASTONISHING THROUGH PASSES


YES.
IN ORDER TO COVER UP THAT WEAKNESS, THEY TURN TO ACCURATE AND QUICK PASSING?
CONTRARILY, THEIR FOOTWORK ISN'T GREAT, THAT INCLUDES DRIBBLING.

THIS WAS PROBABLY THOUGHT UP BY THE COACH WHO POSSESSES A PECULIAR FOOTBALL PHILOSOPHY.
BUT THEY WILL PASS THE BALL BEFORE YOU CAN ATTACK THEM, HOW WILL WE DEAL WITH THAT?
TH-THAT... WELL, OF COURSE ..
WELL, IF THEY'RE BAD AT DRIBBLING, THAT MAY BE THE CLUE TO EXPLOIT.
Ah
Look, it seems Youm's about to start something.
AH, HE AVOIDED IT
Ahhh I'm sorry!
!
STUPID FOOOLLLSSS!!

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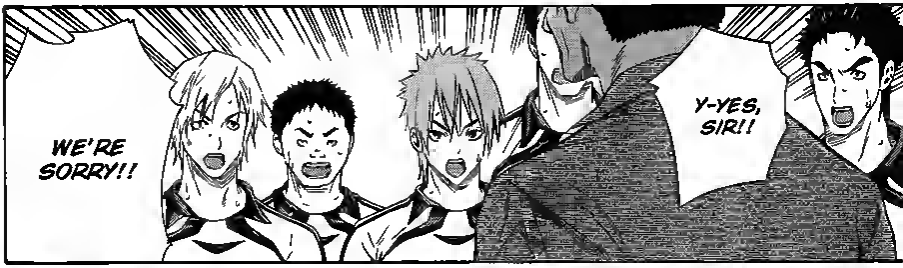
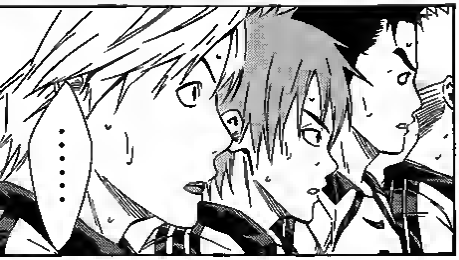
WHAT A MESS!
AND YET YOU ARE REGULARS OF THE SUPREME YOUIN!
IF YOU LOSE HERE, I WON'T LET YOU GUYS OFF!
THE ONLY ONE WHO DID HIS JOB WAS ASUKA!
.....



DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT GUYS.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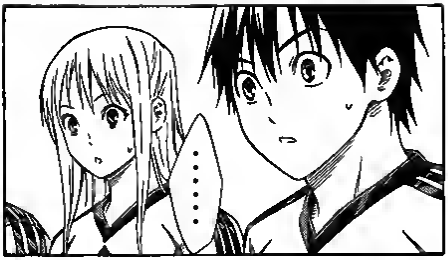
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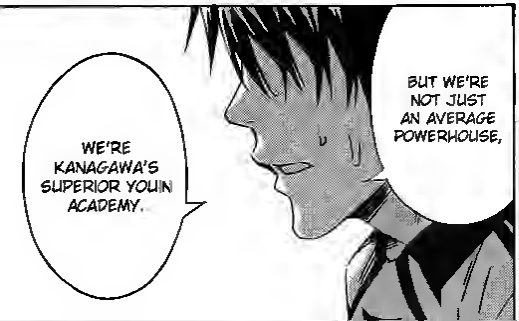
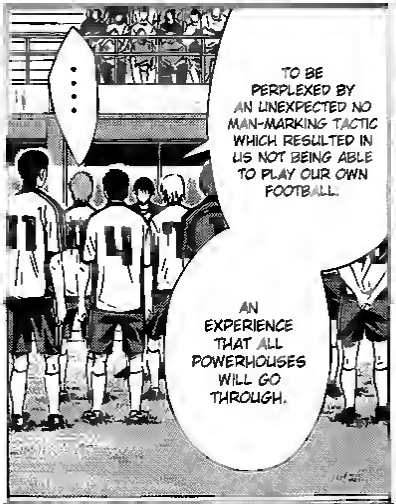

WE'RE KANAGAWA'S SUPERIOR YOUIN ACADEMY.
BUT WE'RE NOT JUST AN AVERAGE POWERHOUSE,


...
TO BE PERPLEXED BY AN UNEXPECTED NO MAN-MARKING TACTIC WHICH RESULTED IN US NOT BEING ABLE TO PLAY OUR OWN FOOTBALL.
AN EXPERIENCE THAT ALL POWERHOUSES WILL GO THROUGH.

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BUT, ASUKA-SAN, WHAT SAGAMI GAURA HAS BEEN DOING ISN'T SUPERFICIAL...
THEIR TOTAL FOOTBALL IS STILL "INCOMPLETE"
WE CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT, ONIMARU.

GREAT CHARISMA FROM ASUKA-SAN.
YEAH... THE EXPRESSIONS ON THE FACES OF THE ELEVEN ARE TOTALLY DIFFERENT.
THAT'S EXTREMELY DIFFERENT FROM A CERTAIN ACE RIGHT?
SHADDUP!
THAT'S THE POWER OF ASUKA-KUN'S SMILE, HE'S ALSO SORT OF AWARE OF HIS INFLUENCE.
BUT WHEN THE COACH WAS YELLING, I WONDERED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN.
BUT IT SEEMS EVERYTHING WAS CALCULATED
IT'S LIKELY THAT THE COACH AND ASUKA-KUN DISTRIBUTED THE ROLES.
THE COACH PLAYING THE BAD GUY AND ASUKA-KUN FOLLOWING UP, RAISING THEIR MOTIVATION
TO THIS TEAM, IT CAN BE SAID THAT ASUKA-KUN IS "ANOTHER COACH"
A GREAT PLAYER, CERTAINLY A "KAISER"

LET'S GET ONE MORE TO DECIDE THE MATCH.
WELL THEN! THE SECOND HALF BEGINS.
HOPE THEY EQUALIZE IN THE FASTEST TIME POSSIBLE.
AS TIME PASSES, THE MENTAL PRESSURE WILL LESSEN AND IT WILL BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO SAGAMI GAURA
Don't let it end here..
Please, Asuka.
THEY'RE BEING PASSIVE... DESPITE LOSING...
I SEE, THAT'S IT.
EH?
THE BALL IS WITH SAGAMI GAURA BUT YOUIN ACADEMY ISN'T MAKING A MOVE! HOPE THEY'D BE MORE ASSERTIVE.
.....?
AS LONG AS THEY REALIZE THAT THEY WON'T DRIBBLE,
IT'S UNNECESSARY TO BE ASSERTIVE.
EVEN IF THEY DON'T, THE OPPONENTS COULD CHOOSE TO DRIBBLE RIGHT?
OF COURSE, BUT..
IF that's the case
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Kuh
HMM? SEEMS CLUMSY
THEY'RE NOT USED TO IT
EH?
TO PASS FROM A DRIBBLE
THEY'RE NEITHER USED TO PRODUCING NOR RECEIVING IT.
TO PASS AFTER BEING BLOCKED OFF WHILE BRINGING THE BALL FORWARD, THE PASS ACCURACY WILL BE DIFFERENT TOO.
TO PASS WHILE WAITING FOR THE OPPONENT TO COME FOR THE BALL, AND...
IT'S ALSO DIFFICULT FOR THE ONE RECEIVING A PASS FROM SOMEONE WITH LITTLE ROOM TO MAKE A PASS FROM... RIGHT?
THAT'S HOW IT IS.
IF YOU DON'T TRY TO GET THE BALL FORCEFULLY
YOU CAN WATCH OUT FOR THE OPPONENT'S PASS ROUTES.

Kuh
THAT WAY, THEY WON'T BE ALLOWED TO PASS LIKE THEY DID EARLIER.
Wha-!!
HOW WILL THEY BREAK THROUGH THAT "BALL-HUNTING"...
BUT THIS IS WHERE IT STARTS.
OH! ASUKA HAS INTERCEPTED THE PASS.
IT'S ONIMARU!!
IT'S THE FIRST TIME IN THIS MATCH WHERE YOUIN HAS TAKEN THE BALL EASILY!
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.....!
BUT ONCE AGAIN SAGAMI GAURA DEFENDERS HAVE SURROUNDED HIM!
RIGHT SPEEDY WINGER ONIMARU HARUKI HAS BROKEN THROUGH ON THE FLANK!
HE DODGED TWO! BUT AGAIN THE NUMBERS INCREASE...
I've been waiting.
SUCH A PATTERN IS

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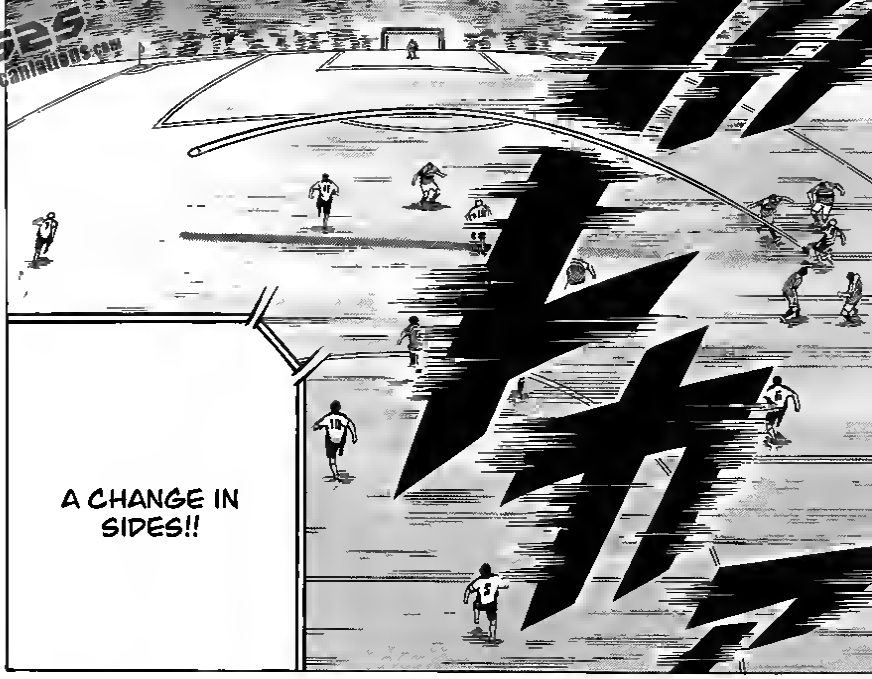

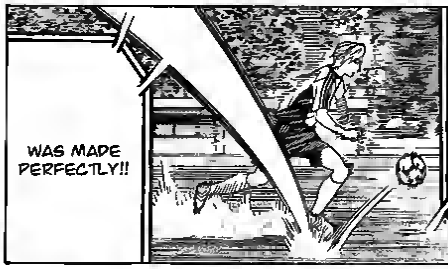

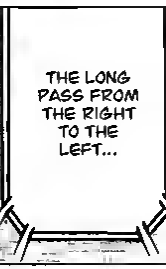

THAT'S RIGHT, THIS IS THAT PERSON'S SPECIALITY.
EVEN SO, THAT WAS REALLY ACCURATE.
IT SEEMS SAGAMI GAURA'S TOTAL FOOTBALL ISN'T COMPLETE YET.
I SEE, TO DEAL WITH THAT BY SWITCHING SIDES
WELL! IT SEEMS YOUIN HAS TURNED UP.
TO MATCH SHIRATORI'S BREAKTHROUGH ON THE LEFT, THE TWO FORWARDS KATSURAGI AND IKUSAWA HAVE ALSO MOVED UP.
WILL IT BE A PASS TO THE TALL KATSURAGI!? OR THE STRONG IKUSAWA!?
BLOCK HIM!
HOWEVER SAGAMI GAURA'S SWITCH BETWEEN ATTACK AND DEFENSE IS REALLY QUICK.
LIKE SURGING WAVES, THEY'VE ALREADY ADVANCED TOWARDS THE GOAL FRONT TO COVER!!
.....!

OH! THOSE IN FRONT OF THE GOAL ARE JUST DECOYS! THE PASS TO THE OUTSIDE OF THE AREA...
ASUKAAAAA! LIBERO ASUKA WITH THE OVERLAP!!
AND...

GOALLLL!
THE EQUALIZE!!
MID-RANGE
SHOT!!
"SHOUNAN'S
EMPEROR" ASUKA
TOORA'S SHOT FROM
AN INCREDIBLE
OVERLAP HAS
BROUGHT THIS
MATCH BACK TO
SQUARE ONE!!
Aw-
Awesome...

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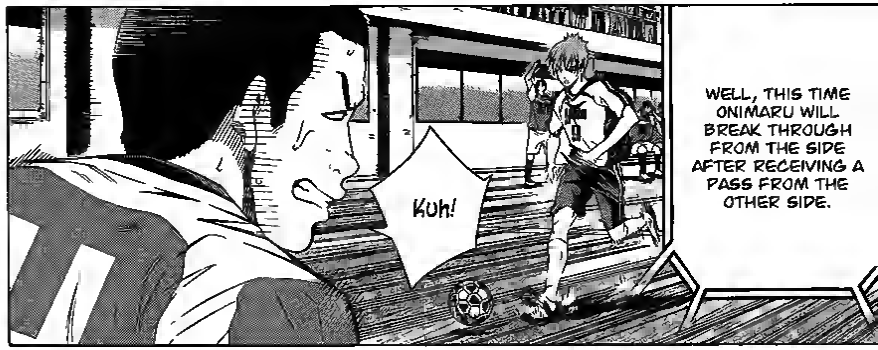

IT'S POSSIBLE THAT SAGAMI GAURA IS FEELING FATIGUE.
THE BIGGEST WEAKNESS OF TOTAL FOOTBALL IS THE CONSTANT CHANGING OF POSITIONS.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEIR ENDURANCE TO KEEP UP TILL THE END.

THIS IS THE END, SAGAMI GAURA'S "BALL-HUNTING" HAS LOST ITS EDGE
AFTER SUCH A SUPERB CHANGE FROM THE SIDE
THEY HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GUARD THE OPPOSITE SIDE TOO.

WELL THEN...
WHAT'S WRONG? NOT GOING TO GATHER MORE?
ONIMARU'S SUDDEN CHANGE OF PACE LEFT TWO OF THEM BEHIND!!
.....

What...
GOALLLL!!
SEEING THE GOALKEEPER DASHING OUT, ONIMARU HARUKI CALMLY ASSESSED THE SITUATION AND ARTISTICALLY LOOPED THE BALL!!
2-1! THE LEAD HAS BEEN REVERSED!

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THIS IS YOUIN.
S-SO STRONG... FROM AN UNFAVORABLE SITUATION, IN SUCH A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME ..
YEAH, OUR NEXT OPPONENTS ARE...
THE INVINCIBLE YOUIN ACADEMY!
youin
7